

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
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PM/SAS:DKEENE
DOD/ISA:WFIFER

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R 180046Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 306416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: MODA REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF COASTAL DEFENSE

REFS: (A) JIDDA 7707, (B) STATE 283038, (C) STATE 259212

1. BASIC CONCERN IN BOTH DEPT AND DOD REGARDING PROPOSED SURVEY HAS BEEN THAT WE GIVE SAUDIS RESPONSE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS IN KEEPING WITH OUR ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF PROVIDING THEM PROFESSIONALLY RESPONSIBLE ADVICE. IN THIS CONTEXT WE HAVE BEEN RETICENT ABOUT APPROVING SURVEY OF COASTAL DEFENSES BECAUSE OUR JOINT FORCE DEFENSE DOCTRINE AND BIAS AGAINST A SEPARATE COASTAL DEFENSE FORCE WOULD CAUSE US TO PREJUDGE THE SURVEY'S CONCLUSIONS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND NOW, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR MORE FORMAL AND DETAILED SUPPORT FOR THE DOCTRINE WHICH WE EMPLOY AND HAVE COUNSELLED IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE SAUDIS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY ARE APPARENTLY RECEIVING
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CONTRARY ADVICE FROM THE EUROPEANS.

3. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM PRINCE SULTAN THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND SURVEY TEAM FROM THE US TO COMPLEMENT AND COMPLETE IN-HOUSE USMTM STUDY. YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE CERTAIN HE UNDERSTANDS RATIONALE FOR OUR EARLIER RELUCTANCE

TO PROVIDE FULL-SCALE SURVEY AND THE BASIS ON WHICH WE ARE
PREPARED TO LAUNCH ONE NOW.

4. CONCERNING TERMS OF REFERENCE, WE BELIEVE A BROAD-BASED
SURVEY WILL MORE FULLY SERVE SAUDI INTERESTS THAN A MORE
LIMITED ONE CONCENTRATING ON THE SNEP.

5. IF SULTAN AFFIRMS REQUEST FOR SURVEY, PLEASE ADVISE
WHEN TEAM IS DESIRED PLUS ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPOSITION
OF TEAM TO AUGMENT USMTM CAPABILITIES. SUFFICIENT LEAD
TIME SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR PREPARATION OF LOA, SINCE NON-
USMTM SUPPORT WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED ON AN FMS BASIS.

6. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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